

## Wiredal.

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We have already noticed some of the picturesque aspects of Wiredal. The magnificent rock scenery of Melkham Cove & Gordale Scar, for instance; we must now consider it as the seat of the great-manufacture of Yorkshire that of woollens. The valley of the Aire & that of the Calder, with the district that lies between them, forms the great 'clothing' district of the West-riding. Follow the Aire up from Leeds to beyond Keighley, follow the Calder from Wakefield to beyond Halifax, & you find the valleys bristling with mill chimneys, either crowded in towns or scattered in villages. Wherever a stream falls into either of these rivers, there is a nest of mills with many cottages. Nine small streams join the Calder, & in each of these valleys is a clothing town or village. Bradford & Alb., between the Aire & the Calder, is also thickly sprinkled with mills. Within a circuit of eleven miles from Bradford, a population of a million is gathered in thickly clustered towns & hamlets. The densest population in England after London & Manchester. It is only necessary to look at the rocky base of the streams to understand the location of the woollen manufacture in a land of rivers & water. course: much water is used in cleaning the wool & in finishing & dyeing the cloth. Again, the clothing towns of the West-riding are planted on the South Yorkshire coalfield, which affords iron, also, for machinery. High speed, are the great ports of Liverpool & Hull; & very complete

172, p. 211, C. 34  
broad middle. basin, is a moorland region, but  
hardly mountainous, the being no elevations  
exceeding 2,000 feet: here, too, we pass into the  
mill-stone-grit country, & lose the peculiar  
features of the limestone; waterfalls, caves,  
'pots' holes; 'scars', underground streams.  
Of the highlands, Nombold's Moor, between  
Airedale & Wharfedale, with the low & half rocks  
above Keenhydding, Baildon Moor, Otley  
Chevin, a remarkable isolated hill with a fine  
view of the Wharfe valley. Roulsworth Hill  
further south, & Blackstone Edge, the dreary  
moor over which was the old coach road  
between Halifax & Manchester, are some of  
the more remarkable. The dales & 'flens'  
as 'flens' of this south-western  
district are, perhaps, its real beauty.  
The scenery of the Eastern Moors has  
some features in common with the west,  
though here, the moors are of glacial formation.  
The valleys are, for the most part, spread with  
glacial deposits. Danby Beacon (966 ft) &  
Easter Rib. (784 ft) are both bold & conspicuous  
heights north of the Rib. South of the Rib,  
the land is much higher, many of the  
hills exceeding 1000 ft in height, as Barton  
Heath, Lamsdale Heath, & Lonsdale, all above 1400 ft.  
The whole of north-eastern Yorkshire is an orbital  
plateau, cut across by the valley of the Rib.  
it is a moorland region cut into many  
distinct moors by the wooded, picturesque  
flens which run towards the Rib. on the one  
hand & the Derwent on the other.





## Leeds.

112 p4 cnc 34

Of this cluster of busy towns, Leeds, the fifth town in England in population, is the most important. It is a rich, busy, enterprising town, & naturally the great mills & warehouses connected with its cloth industry are its most interesting objects. The mills, where many thousands of 'hands' are employed, are gathered for the most part round the river Aire which flows through the town, & you get some notion of the population of the place when <sup>10,000</sup> people pour out to diners at noon. So great a labouring population demands many streets of small houses: the merchants & manufacturers have their pleasant dwellings in the fine suburbs of the town, especially about Roundhay, such a public park as few English towns can boast of. <sup>& Woodhouse Moor.</sup> Leeds has, of course, its broad streets with fine shops & rows of imposing warehouses built with an eye to effect. The very fine town hall with a great hall capable of holding 4000 persons, is the centre of a group of important public buildings. The Museum, of the Literary & Philosophical Society & the Leeds Library are especially interesting. From another point of view, as the White (undyed) Cloth Hall, the Mixed Cloth Hall & the Industrial Museum. Of the Churches, St. Peter's Parish Church is perhaps the most interesting, as the centre of the zealous & aggressive work of the late Dr. Hook. Although Leeds is the greatest cloth market of the world, the weaving, dyeing, & selling of cloth are by no means its only industries. Here are great iron factories & foundries, as the Welling in the Aire & the

Bradford

hundreds, where the engines & machines used in the  
 mills may be seen in process of working; glass-works,  
 brass-works, leather-works - it would be hard to name  
 the manufacture which is not carried on to some  
 extent in Leeds. After the various branches of the  
 woollen, the linen manufacture is the next in  
 portance, more linen being made in Leeds than in  
 any other town of the United Kingdom excepting Belfast. The  
 great flax mills, where more than two thousand persons  
 are employed, are at Holbeck on the Aire, a suburb of  
 Leeds, & belong to the Messrs. Marshall. These are  
 amongst the largest flax mills in Europe. There are two  
 mills, the older, like most other factories, but the  
 new mill, very remarkable, being a single enormous  
 apartment on the ground floor, where all the operations  
 of spinning & weaving are carried on, the warp & weft  
 frame being soon upon it to secure a more even length  
 in the room below. Most of the flax used in Leeds <sup>the Holbeck mill</sup> is  
 imported from France, Belgium & Holland. The  
 arrangements for the work-people are very complete  
 & considerate, including a church, poor schools  
 & a capital library provided by the employers.  
 Barnsley in south Yorkshire, 'Black Barnsley'  
 as it is universally called, is also a busy linen-  
 making place, noted for its damasks, sheetings &c.  
 Leeds is no upstart place, but has a history reaching  
 back nearly as far as English history goes. In  
 early Saxon days, there was a little kingdom of  
 Eborac, or Leeds, which took its name from the valley of the  
 Aire. Calder & Wharfe, & was at one time ruled by  
 a king Cerdic. The town has had various fortunes  
 since. When the Conquerors marched into Yorkshire to  
 punish the north country folk for their heresies, &  
 left Leeds a waste. Later, we read of a castle here.

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perhaps because the smoky - laden atmosphere is discouraging  
to enterprise, Sheffield has few <sup>public</sup> striking buildings.  
The parish church, St. Peter's, is a fine fourteenth  
century building, with <sup>reignant</sup> ~~interesting~~ monuments.  
St. George's Museum, on a hill beyond the town, &  
Mr. Ruskin's gift, is interesting as an effort of  
the apostle of beauty to contend with the ugliness  
which necessarily gathers round a great  
manufacturing centre. The fragments of the  
Mansel House of Sheffield Castle has another  
kind of interest: in the Castle, which was dismantled  
during the Civil War, Mary of Scotland was confined  
for twelve years, & in the Mansel House, where she  
occasionally stayed, 'Queen Mary's Chamber'  
is still to be seen: here, too, Wolsey stayed for  
eighteen days in the course of his last sad  
progress. Few Yorkshire towns can show a  
list of 'worthies' to match that of Sheffield: it  
has not only its landscape painters, but its poets  
& its sculptors to show: Chantrey began his career as  
apprentice to a Sheffield carver & gilder; Montgomery,  
the author of "The Pelican Island," worked on a Sheffield  
newspaper, & Thackeray Elliot, the Corn Law Rhymist,  
was engaged in the steel business. Buckham preached  
& wrote his 'Domestic Medicine' here, Mrs. Hemans  
one of our earliest novelists, was born here, & so was  
Creswick, the landscape painter, at its junction with the River  
Rotherham, on the right bank of the Don, which has  
a beautiful fifteenth century church (All Saints), is  
otherwise a black stony town, trading in coal &  
iron with an important sheep market.  
In contrast with the neighbouring 'black country'  
Doncaster is charming - clean, quiet & pleasant  
scenery



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except in the during the race week in September.  
When the town is crowded, is full of interest & animation.  
The Doncaster races have been then amongst the most  
famous in the kingdom since the establishment  
of the St. Leger Stakes, by Colonel St. Leger, about a century  
ago. The town owes much of its prosperity to the  
vast numbers of persons who come here during  
the race-week. The weekly event is the corn market,  
one of the most important in the North; for Doncaster  
is in the centre of a rich & productive agricultural  
district. It is not altogether without the noise of  
machinery for here are the principal works of the  
Great Northern Railway. The beautiful Church on  
the hill, (St. George's), is quite modern, the work of Sir  
Gilbert Scott, erected by public subscription to replace  
the ancient parish church, with a celebrated tower, which  
was burnt down in 1853. Doncaster, occupying  
as it does, a commanding station on the old North  
Road, has had its share in every rising that has  
agitated Yorkshire. Thomas of Lancaster assembled  
his followers here: here was the centre of deliberation  
during the 'Pilgrimage of Grace'; where interviews  
were held between the insurgent leaders & the royal  
Commanders; and, during the civil war, it was, more  
than once, the head-quarters of the Puritan forces.  
Coningsborough's Castle, within four or five miles  
of Doncaster, is an exceedingly interesting spot.  
not only for the evident antiquity & romantic  
appearance of the ruins, standing as they do on a  
~~mount~~ amongst trees on a moor. Which rises  
sheer from the "soft & gentle river Doon"; but because  
every reader of 'Ivanhoe' is familiar with Coningsborough  
which Scott made the home of Athelstane the Unready.  
Though without much historical foundation beyond a  
name, (Conings = kings), for the existing ruins are distinctly  
Roman.

92. <sup>Hutton</sup> ~~Haemans~~, The sculptor, & Selby, The painter, were natives of York. 512P8CME34

The York of today is a fairly thriving city, but its interest for the visitor lies in its ~~wooded~~ eventful past, & in such evidences of that past as remain. The maze of its narrow streets, picturesque groupings, occasional old houses with timbered fronts & overhanging stoops & in the historic buildings we have noticed. But York is no longer, by any measure, the second capital of England.

About 5 miles from York is the battle-field of Marston Moor, celebrated as one of the two more desperately fought fields ever contested on English ground. The moor, a good deal enclosed now, was then open ground, under rye, rising into a hill called Clump-hill, where there is still a clump of firs. The parliamentarians occupied this ground with a view to meet Prince Rupert on his way from Lancashire for the relief of York. But Rupert evaded them & got into the city. <sup>Charnley</sup> The leaders of the enemy, - the Fairfaxes & the Earl of Manchester - resolved to quit the spot & march south. When they heard that Rupert was in pursuit they faced round, occupied the hill from which they could charge down upon the Royalists. & by seven in the evening, the battle had begun. For the first hour, the battle was in favour of the Cavaliers but fortune turned, partly owing to the pluck of a select contingent, & by nine o'clock, the Royalists were completely routed after feats of heroic valour. Rupert managed to escape by hiding in a bean field, but the Royalist cause received its death blow in this battle, where the slaughter of the Cavaliers was fearful. (July 2, 1644).

Lower down the Ouse is Selby, seated on the banks of a richly fertile level; it is a pleasant ~~town~~ trading town, situated at a point where the Ouse is broad & deep enough to carry vessels of considerable tonnage.



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There, the point towards the Don is marked for sailing vessels, is always marked - towns with large shipping trade. To the east of the town is 'Larn' waste, an enormous bog, containing a fine forest, & yielding much peat. Here, throughout the lowlands lying between the Great & our the process of maring is carried on with much success. That is, the rivers contain much lasty matter - indeed, are half-mud. & when they are at their muddiest, they are let in upon the land, & kept by closing the sluice until the black mould held in solution is deposited. It is said that three years of this process produces wonderfully fertile fields.

### The North Riding.

We have already spoken of the landscape & configuration of the North Riding, & have little space to enter in detail into its interests & associations. The Wast or dales are as beautiful & as romantic as those of the West Riding. Leeds belongs as much to Durham as to Yorkshire, & Scott has done so much for the West Riding, that perhaps succeeded better than his wordsworth with Wordsworth in opening its beauties to the world. 'Rothbury' is full of the most careful and painting, every picturesque detail woven into the poem was carefully noted down by the poet on the spot: High Joss, Greta Bridge, Rothbury, Wharfedale - supposed to have given name to the family of the Regent, as Scott pointed them, only, perhaps, the description is slightly "more so" than the fact in one or two cases: only the characters of 'Rothbury' are imaginary. Leedsdale is, perhaps, less picturesque than its two neighbours valleys - Leedsdale & Wharfedale, but there is no more beautifully placed town in the country than Richmond. The head of all this country after the Conquest.

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as that in which the 'Lion of Plouern' is couched. This  
was the den of the celebrated 'Dragon of Wantley' - Wantley  
is supposed to be a corruption of Wharfedale: & near  
at hand, rising amongst trees, is an enormous,  
unaccountable rock structure - mammoth rock  
resting upon mammoth rocks. Which was too much  
for even the Dragon, for, say the ballad, -

"Nones & churches

Was as great a turkey;  
He ate all, slept none behind  
Save some stones, dear Jack, which he could not crack  
Which on the hill you will find."  
This tale of the Dragon of Wantley delighted Sir Walter  
Scott, who alludes to it in the opening chapter of  
Ivanhoe. Lady Mary Wortley Montagu lived in this  
house of the Wortleys after her marriage.

In the heart of this lovely country - on a little  
Purgatory of its own, where four tributary streams  
join the Don - stands Sheffield, out & out, the blackest  
of Yorkshire towns. Everybody knows that Sheffield  
is the 'Metropolis of Cutlery' - truly a metropolis,  
for it has manorial rights over all Hallamshire -  
a circle of adjoining parishes, every village in which  
is engaged in some sort of cutlery work. It was long  
supposed that the yellow waters of the Sheaf - gathered on  
the Derbyshire moors - had some virtue which accounted  
for the excellence of Sheffield blades: but, perhaps,  
ferriferous for lining the melting pots, & ~~some~~ millstone  
grit for the grindstones are the only peculiar  
advantages for steel making that Sheffield possesses.  
Sheffield has coal & water on the spot: but iron for  
the steel manufacture is imported, chiefly from Sweden,  
Cumberland, Westmoreland, & the north of Wales (if  
some suitable iron ores for steel making. The manufacture  
is a very old one, Sheffield 'smiths' having a name for  
excellence